

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 – line 22 to read as follows:

However, in such ~~conventional~~ biochip readers, if shading (cone-shaped light intensity distribution) is included in excitation light from the light source, non-uniformity is generated in read data. To prevent this, it is suggested to make the ratio  $a$  of the minimum value of light intensity to its maximum value to be 10 to 20%, by making the amount of shading small using only a center portion of the above conical intensity distribution as shown in FIG. 3. However, there occurs another problem that much light is wasted (the light-utilizing efficiency deteriorates) because this method discards light in the peripheral portion.

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 14 – line 16 to read as follows:

In addition, as a solution to the problems shown in FIG. 3 and FIGS. ~~4~~ 4A and 4B, the following configuration should be adopted: